

CLAIMS

1. A corrugated cardboard pallet comprising a top sheet (28), a base sheet (29) and at least one connecting member (30-38) between said top and base sheets, the connecting member being moveable to shift the pallet between a relatively flat and a relatively erect form.
2. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in claim 1 wherein a number of connecting members (30-38) are secured between the top and base sheets (28, 29), each member being constructed such as to be moveable from a flattened or collapsed state to an erect state.
3. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in claim 2 wherein each connecting member (30-38) is secured to a support (10) comprising two substantially parallel opposing main body panels (18, 20) and two pairs of opposing side walls (X, Y) wherein each of one pair of opposing side walls is formed from at least two interlocking parts (11, 14, 22, 25).
4. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in claim 3 wherein each support (10) is constructed from a blank (2) comprising two main body forming panels (18, 20), a middle panel (19) between said body forming panels and at least one end flap (21), each main body forming panel and middle panel having opposing side flaps (11, 22, 14, 25, 13, 24), each side flap of the main body panels being provided with an indent (I).
5. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in claim 4 wherein the side flaps (11, 22, 14, 25) of the main body panels are secured to the side flaps (13, 24) of the middle

panel, the end flap (21) is folded over and secured to the main panel and the side flaps of the main body panels are not secured to each other.

6. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in claim 4 or claim 5 wherein opposing side flaps (11 and 22, 14 and 25) of each main body panel are a mirror image of one another.

7. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in claim 4, 5 or 6 wherein adjacent side flaps (11 and 14, 22 and 25) of adjacent main body panels are identical.

8. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 7 wherein an end flap (17, 21) is provided at the end of each main body forming panel.

9. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in claim 8 wherein one of the end flaps (21) is provided with side flaps (16, 27).

10. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in claim 9 wherein a tab (12, 15, 23, 20) is provided on each of the side flaps (11, 14, 22, 25) of the main body forming panels for attachment to side flaps of the end flap and the middle flap in the constructed support.

11. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in claim 10 wherein each tab is provided at the remote end of the indented region of each side flap.

12. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 11 wherein fluting is formed in the longitudinal direction of the blank.

13. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 12 wherein at least 4 supports are provided between the top sheet (28) and the base sheet (29).

14. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in claim 13 wherein between 9 and 12 supports are provided between the top sheet (28) and the base sheet (29).

15. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in claim 14 wherein the supports are arranged at each corner of the sheets, with at least one support positioned centrally between the corner supports along each side thereof and a further support being provided in the centre between the sheets.
16. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in claim 15 wherein the central support is the largest size of support and the supports provided at the corners are the smallest in size.
17. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the base sheet is provided with regions (40, 42) that are relieved of material to provide access points from below the pallet.
18. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the base sheet (29), top sheet (28) and connecting members (30-32) are secured together by means of adhesive only.
19. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein a varnish is applied to the top sheet, base sheet and/or at least one connecting member.
20. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein at least one additional sheet is secured to the top and/or base sheet.
21. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in claim 20 wherein the additional sheet is a cross ply board.
22. A corrugated cardboard pallet as claimed in claim 20 or 21 wherein fluting of the additional sheet lies at 90 degrees to the direction of fluting on the sheet to which it is applied.

23. A method of manufacturing a corrugated cardboard pallet comprising the steps of passing a top sheet (28) along a conveyor (100), feeding at least one connecting member (10) on to the top sheet and securing a base sheet (29) to the connecting member.
24. A method as claimed in claim 23 wherein adhesive is applied to the connecting member prior to feeding it on to the top sheet.
25. A method as claimed in claim 23 or claim 24 wherein the connecting member is moveable between a flattened and an erect state and is applied to the top sheet in its flattened state.
26. A method as claimed in claim 23, 24 or claim 25 wherein a plurality of connecting members are fed onto different locations on the top sheet.
27. A method as claimed in claim 26 wherein the connecting members are fed from hoppers (101-104).